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PART IV

Act of the Dominion Legislature assented to by the Governor General

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW

New Delhi, the 17th February, 1949

The following Act of the Dominion Legislature received the assent of the Governor-General on the 17th February, 1949 and is hereby published for general information —

Act No. VIII of 1949.

An Act to provide facilities for carrying out seaward artillery practice.

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide facilities for carrying out seaward artillery practice;

It is hereby enacted as follows:—

1. **Short title, extent and application.**—(1) This Act may be called the Seaward Artillery Practice Act, 1949.

(2) It extends to all the Provinces and Acceding States of India which have a sea coast, and applies also to, and to persons on, any vessel which is registered in India or which belongs to any person domiciled in India, wherever it may be.

2. **Interpretation.**—(1) In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,—

(a) "notified area" means any part of the area of the sea and the shores adjoining that area which may be specified in this behalf by notification under section 8;

(b) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act;

(c) "seaward artillery practice" means artillery practice or coastal firing towards the sea, whether within or beyond the territorial waters and includes air armament practice;

(d) "vessel" includes any ship, boat, country craft or any other description of vessel.

(2) In the application of this Act to any Acceding State—

(a) all references to the Provincial Government shall be construed as references to the Government of the Acceding State, and

(b) all references to the Collector or other authority entrusted with any functions by or under this Act or to the official Gazette shall be

construed as references to such appropriate officer, authority or official publication as may be specified in this behalf by the Government of the Acceding State.

3. Power of Provincial Government to authorise seaward artillery practice.—

(1) The Provincial Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, authorise the carrying out of seaward artillery practice over any area specified in the notification during any specified period or periods.

(2) Before issuing a notification under sub-section (1), the Provincial Government shall cause to be published in the manner provided in sub-section (3) notice of its intention so to do, and no such notification shall be issued until the expiry of two months from the date of the first publication of the notice in the official Gazette.

(3) The notice required by sub-section (2) shall be given—

(a) by publication in the official Gazette, and

(b) by publication in some newspaper circulating in and in the language commonly understood in the area proposed to be specified and also by beat of drums or in such other manner as may be prescribed.

(4) If any question arises whether the notice referred to in sub-section (3) was given as required by that sub-section, a certificate by the Collector that the notice was so given shall be conclusive.

4. Powers exercisable for purposes of seaward artillery practice.—(1) After a notification under sub-section (1) of section 3 has been issued, such persons as are included in the forces engaged in seaward artillery practice may within the notified area and during the period or periods specified in the notification—

(a) give directions prohibiting or restricting the use of the notified area or any part thereof including the use of any part of the area of the sea by any vessel, and take such further measures as may be necessary to ensure that no unauthorised person enters, passes over or remains in the notified area or part thereof, as the case may be, during such practice, and

(b) carry out seaward artillery practice with lethal missiles

(2) The Officer Commanding the forces engaged in any such practice may declare any portion of the notified area to be a danger zone, and thereupon the Collector shall, on application made to him by the Officer Commanding the forces engaged in the practice, prohibit the entry into and secure, with the assistance of the naval or military authorities concerned, the removal from such danger zone of any person, property or vessel during the times when the discharge of lethal missiles is taking place or there is danger to life or property.

5. Compensation.—Where by reason of a notification issued under section 3 the carrying out of seaward artillery practice is authorised in any notified area, compensation shall be payable for any damage to person or property or interference with rights or privileges arising from such practice, including expenses reasonably incurred in protecting person, property, rights or privileges.

6. Method of assessing compensation.—(1) For the purpose of determining the amount of any compensation payable under section 5, the Collector of the district in which any notified area is situate shall depute one or more Revenue Officers to accompany the forces engaged in the practice.

(2) The Revenue Officer so deputed shall consider all claims for compensation under section 5 and determine, on local investigation and after

affording the claimant an opportunity of being heard, the amount of compensation, if any, which shall be awarded in each case; and shall disburse on the spot to the claimant compensation so determined as payable.

(3) Compensation payable under sub-section (2) shall include compensation for the removal from any portion of a notified area declared to be a danger zone of any person, property or vessel and for any damage sustained in the course of any such removal. The compensation for removal will be disbursed on the spot at not less than the minimum prescribed rates before the removal is enforced.

(4) Any claimant dissatisfied with the refusal of the Revenue Officer to award him compensation or with the amount of compensation awarded to him by the Revenue Officer, may, at any time within one month of the communication to him of the decision of the Revenue Officer, prefer an appeal to the Collector against the decision.

(5) The decision of the Collector on such appeal shall be final and no suit shall lie in any civil Court in respect of any matter decided by the Collector under this section.

(6) No fee shall be charged in connection with any claim, notice, appeal, application or document filed before the Revenue Officer or the Collector under this section.

7. Offences.—If within a notified area and during any period specified in a notification issued under sub-section (1) of section 8, any person—

(a) wilfully obstructs or interferes with the carrying out of seaward artillery practice, or

(b) without due authority enters or remains in any camp, or

(c) without due authority enters or remains in any area declared to be a danger zone at a time when entry thereto is prohibited, or

(d) without due authority interferes with any flag or mark or target or buoy or any apparatus used for the purposes of seaward artillery practice,

shall be punishable with fine which may extend to twenty rupees or with imprisonment which may extend to fifteen days, or with both.

8. Protection of action taken under this Act.—(1) No suit, prosecution or other legal proceeding shall lie against any person for anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done in pursuance of this Act or any rules made thereunder.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in this Act, no suit or other legal proceeding shall lie against the Central Government or the Provincial Government in respect of any damage caused or likely to be caused by anything in good faith done or intended to be done in pursuance of this Act or any rules made thereunder.

9. Power to make rules.—The Provincial Government may, after consultation with the local military and naval authorities and the authorities, if any, of any port in any notified area, by notification in the official Gazette, make rules—

(a) prescribing the manner in which the notices referred to in sub-section (3) of section 8 may be given;

(b) regulating the use under this Act of the notified area for seaward artillery practice in such manner as to secure the public against danger, and to enable the practice to be carried out with the minimum inconvenience to the inhabitants of the area affected;

(c) prescribing the minimum rates at which compensation shall be payable under sub-section (3) of section 6, and generally regarding the making of claims for compensation, the procedure to be followed by the authorities granting the compensation, the expeditious settlement of claims and the filing of appeals from original awards of compensation;

(d) defining the principles to be followed in assessing the amount of compensation to be awarded under this Act.

K. V. K. SUNDARAM,
Secy. to the Govt. of India.